



Simposio Internacional / *International Symposium:*

Nuevas perspectivas en la investigación sobre el cáncer
New insights in cancer discovery

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SIMA LEV

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Born in Rishon Le-Zion, **Prof. Sima Lev** received her BSc in 1986 and her MSc in 1988, both from Tel Aviv University. She earned her PhD in molecular biology from the Weizmann Institute of Science in 1994. She then conducted postdoctoral research at New York University Medical Center and at SUGEN, Inc., in California from 1994-1998. In 1998, she joined the Weizmann Institute and today is a faculty member in the Department of Molecular Cell Biology. She is the incumbent of the Joyce and Ben B. Eisenberg Chair of Molecular Endocrinology and Cancer Research.

Prof. Lev's research focuses on intracellular membrane trafficking events, namely the movement of both proteins and lipids within human cells. Her pioneering studies have made remarkable contributions to this research field and established important concepts of how these processes are regulated in normal cells and their implication for human diseases, including neurodegenerative diseases and cancer. In the last two years Prof. Lev has shifted her efforts toward cancer biology, and she isolated an enzyme that is a key signaling component of various human cancers. Her current studies are focused on breast cancer, specifically, on a highly aggressive subtype of breast cancer known as triple negative breast cancer (TNBC). This type affects young women and currently has no effective treatment. Prof. Lev and her team members try to identify key signaling pathways that affect the progression and aggressiveness of this disease. She believes that this approach will help her to identify therapeutic targets that could effectively prevent the progression of the disease .

Prof. Lev is the recipient of numerous fellowships and awards, including the Bergmann Memorial Award from the U.S.-Israel Binational Science Foundation and a Research Career Development Award from the Israel Cancer Research Fund (2000-2005).